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ABSTRACT

The document presents recommendations for government services for disabled persons after 6 years experience with Japan's 1982 long-term plan. The section on fundamental policies notes the principles of rehabilitation and normalization and makes nine recommendations concerning such areas as securing equal opportunities, supporting independence, utilizing advanced technology, and promoting international cooperation. The second section addresses priority measures for specific subjects including public information; health and medical care; education and upbringing; employment; income security and welfare services; living environments; promotion of sports, recreation, and cultural measures; and promotion of international cooperation. The final section briefly addresses the need for cooperation among the relevant government organizations. (DB)

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LONG-TERM PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT MEASURES FOR DISABLED PERSONS

(PRIORITY MEASURES DURING THE SECOND-HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS)

The Headquarters for Promoting
the Welfare of Disabled Persons

June 25, 1987

(Translation)

EC 33075

Secretariat,
The Headquarters for Promoting
the Welfare of Disabled Persons
Prime Minister's Office
Government of Japan

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PREFACE

The United Nations adopted "World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons" in 1982 following the International Year of Disabled Persons (1981). The United Nations also declared the period from 1983 to 1992 as "The United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons", and requested the member nations to implement the programme for their guideline. It has been decided to evaluate the implementation of the programme at the 42nd General Assembly to be held in 1987 which marks the mid-point of the Decade.

The Government established the Headquarters for Promoting the International Year of Disabled Persons in March 1980, held various commemorative events in 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons, and promoted the measures for disabled persons. Further, the Headquarters has established "Long-Term Plan for Government Measures for Disabled Persons" (hereinafter referred to as "Long-Term Plan") in March 1982. On April 1, 1982, the Government established the "Headquarters for Promoting the Welfare of Disabled Persons", and it has been actively promoting the Long-Term Plan in various fields, with substantial and fruitful results. This is the 6th year in the Long-Term Plan, so it may be considered as the intermediate period.

Therefore, to further promote the measures for disabled persons, the Government has been making basic efforts to

achieve effective promotion of the Long-Term Plan by evaluating the results of its measures implemented up to 1987 and by determining which measures are to be emphasized in the future.

For that purpose, the Headquarters for Promoting the Welfare of Disabled Persons summarized, in July last year, the implementation record of the Long-Term Plan in order to perform overall review and promotion of the Long-Term Plan and also to establish suggestions for determining measures which need to be emphasized in the future.

The Long-Term Plan was formulated in 1982 based on a recommendation "What Japan's Internal Long-Term Programme of Action for the Disabled Should Be" which was submitted by the National Council for Disabled Persons to the Prime Minister. For this reason, the Council started to discuss for its comments, based on the implementation record described above, regarding the priority measures during the second-half of the decade.

The Council established an ad-hoc special evaluation committee in July 1986, and has been energetically discussing the subject since September 1986. In addition, the Council issued "Evaluation of the Implementation of the Long-Term Plan for Promoting the Welfare of Disabled Persons, and Priority Measures during the Second-half of the Decade" on May 26, 1987, and submitted its recommendation to

the Prime Minister on the 25th of May, 1987, according to clause 3, Article 27 of The Fundamental Law of Disabled Persons.

The Government regards the recommendation with the greatest respect, and has established the following measures for special emphasis during the second-half of the decade in order to attain the goal of the Long-Term Plan.

I. FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES

The Long-Term Plan is based mainly on two concepts. One is "rehabilitation" in which each and every disabled person is considered to have the potential for restoring the dignity of his personality as a human being, and that his independence contributes to the development of society as a whole. The second concept is "normalization" which means providing disabled persons with living conditions that enable them to live and act like ordinary citizens to the greatest extent possible. The Long-Term Plan was established to specify the fundamental policies and subjects to be implemented over the period of one decade. Thus, effective measures could be promoted for the prevention of disorders, for rehabilitation, and to attain the goal of full participation and equality.

The determination of the priority measures for the second-half of the decade is based on the results of the first 5-year implementation of the Long-Term Plan and is intended to closely follow concepts, goal and subjects described above. In addition, the matters pointed out in the recommendation submitted by the National Council for Disabled Persons have been taken into account. Thus it has been decided to promote the measures for the disabled persons in the future with the following fundamental policies in mind:

1. Further spread of proper recognition of "disability" and "disabled persons"

Proper recognition of disability and disabled persons is one of the basic requirements for attaining full participation and equality.

Distinction of "impairment," "disability" and "handicaps" should be recognized. Some of the basic elements of recognition include the following: handicap is caused when a disabled person encounters cultural, physical or social barriers which prevent their access to various social systems available to other citizens. We should recognize a disabled person as an ordinary citizen with special difficulties in meeting ordinary human needs rather than a special person who has different needs than those of other citizens. These basic recognitions have been widely spread thanks to the public information activities since the International Year of Disabled Persons. Efforts should be continued to further spread the basic recognitions so that they work to solve specific actual problems in communities.

2. Securing equal opportunities

The goal of full participation and equality is based on the principle that a disabled person possesses a fundamental right equal to that possessed by any other citizen of the same age regardless of the causes, specific characters or degrees of his disability. This principle is the very

foundation of the measures for disabled persons.

Therefore, efforts will be continued to actively promote measures that will permit disabled persons to have daily and social life activities similar to those of ordinary citizens as much as possible.

3. Supporting independence

Disabled persons are expected to independently plan their own lives as responsible individuals and play positive roles in contributing to the social and economic developments through participation in their communities.

It is necessary to make it clear that the purposes of the measures for promoting the welfare of disabled persons should be to support their independence and to improve the conditions that help them to be independent.

4. Improving the living environments

It is necessary to form a social system which makes it possible for considerations for disabled persons to suffuse throughout society.

For that purpose, efforts should be made to improve the physical environment, giving careful consideration to the possible inconvenience and disadvantages in the daily life of disabled persons, to supply communication means and to improve the system for disaster and crime prevention. In addition, efforts should be made to create a town of welfare designed to provide a psychological atmosphere so that all

members of a community entertain careful considerations of the welfare of others, thus removing "the barrier of the heart".

5. Measures for the advanced age

With the "graying" of the population, the ages of disabled persons are advancing along with the ages of their parents and other people who support them. To cope with this aging, it is necessary to conceive of new measures regarding treatment technologies, consolidation with associated facilities and services, and approaches for supporting them in their social activities and daily lives.

In addition to promoting consistent measures for each age group, efforts should be made to improve the measures for the life stage of advanced age as it relates to the measures for the elderly, both those who have difficulties with physical action in their daily activities and the persons with deteriorated mental capacities.

6. Utilization of advanced technology

The development and spread of welfare technical aids are expected to greatly help disabled persons with their support, their daily activities and their social activities. It has also brought about the advent of a new field which technologically deals with care. Further, advances in information network technology have made communication with disabled persons easier.

To further promote research and development of those welfare technical aids and their spread, the standardization and systematization of supplying information on the technical aids should be promoted. Consideration should be given to enhancing the supply of information to disabled persons through full use of information network technology.

7. Successfully coordinating measures

Efforts should be made to establish a successful system which efficiently coordinates and integrates all the related measures in different fields. The following are some of the coordinations of measures: coordination between medical care, welfare and educational measures throughout the early detection and treatment of disorders, and early education; coordination between education, medical care, welfare and employment measures from vocational education and training to employment; coordination between domiciliary measures and institutional measures in social welfare service; and coordination between welfare and housing measures for improving living environments.

8. Enhancing survey and research

To promote measures for disabled persons, it is indispensable to accurately assess their actual states and needs. It is also necessary to collect and accumulate information related to disabled persons in Japan and abroad and to promote research and development into means which

permit effective prevention of disorders, rehabilitation and participation of disabled persons into society.

To attain the objectives outlined above, efforts should be made to upgrade the survey for identifying the causes and types of disorders, the actual state of occurrence and for grasping the living condition of disabled persons and their social adaptability. There must also be active promotion of research in various fields such as public health and medical care, education, employment, welfare service and living environments.

9. Promotion of international cooperation

The international standard which provides the basis for dealing with the problems of disabled persons is given in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (1982), which is based on the International Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Declaration on Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (1971), and the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (1975). All these contributed to the concepts and principles for coping with the problems of disabled persons, and the concepts and principles have acquired world-wide recognition and commendation.

To observe such a general standard and to promote the improvement of welfare for disabled persons are the minimum requirements for Japan which aims to cooperate with and contribute to the international society.

At the same time, Japan also has an obligation to play a major role in the disability-related field in the international society and to actively and energetically contribute to the promotion of full participation and equality of disabled persons in all countries in the world.

To attain the above, efforts should be continued for cooperation with the United Nations in its various activities and with the developing countries and participation in international conferences.

II. FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES AND PRIORITY MEASURES FOR SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

A. Public Information

Public information activities should be continued to achieve proper understanding and scientific recognition of impairment, disability and handicap, and thorough understanding of the goal of full participation and equality and to arouse the awareness that all the members of society are responsible for the attainment of full participation and equality. Continued efforts should be made on a long term basis to promote the understanding of specific measures and activities to achieve the aforementioned. In particular, emphasis should be placed on promotion of proper understanding and recognition of disabled persons from the infant period at a community level.

Future efforts to disseminate public information should be focused on the following points:

1. Promotion of public information activities

a. In order to make the Disabled Persons Day really meaningful, public information activities through mass media should be further intensified. Also, active participation by ordinary citizens and volunteer groups, and the joint relationship between local public entities and non-governmental organizations dealing with disabled persons should be enhanced.

In 1987, celebration of the mid-point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons is to be held.

b. During the period of the Human Rights Week (Dec. 4 to Dec. 10) climaxing Human Rights Day on the last day, special efforts are to be made to spread the principle of full participation and equality related to the rights of disabled persons and the Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons by the United Nations.

c. Extra efforts should be made to promote the public information activities during the periods of the Disabled Person's Employment Promotion Month (September), the Movement to Promote Metal Health (the first week of November), the Week for the Physically Disabled Persons (one week starting with the Disabled Person's Day) and the Month for Protection of Mentally Retarded Persons (September).

d. Promoting the project to build "Accessible towns for the Disabled" leads not only to improved physical environment but also to an uplifted atmosphere, helping remove "the barrier of the heart." Therefore, this promotion should also given enough effort.

2. Promotion of welfare education

a. Education in primary and junior high schools for promoting the understanding of disabled persons should be actively promoted.

b. To provide the families of ordinary citizens,

children and students with a clear consciousness of the welfare of disabled persons, measures should generally be taken for enhancing the understanding of the members of society. Some of the measures include holding welfare courses and lectures, and improving film libraries where video tapes, movie films, etc. are available.

c. Public information activities should be developed jointly with the welfare and health care service organizations such as welfare offices, child consultation centers and health centers so that general local inhabitants can gain a deeper understanding and recognition of the welfare of disabled persons.

3. Promotion of exchange

The exchanges between local inhabitants and social welfare facilities, and the exchanges through school education, children's association activities, sports and cultural activities should be actively promoted.

B. Health and Medical Care

Efforts should be made to improve conditions which will prevent disorders from occurring; early detection and treatment of disorders, rehabilitation for independence, etc. Proper measures should be taken to respond to social changes such as the increase in numbers of aged persons and the advance of technologies in various fields, including the medical care field. At the same time, such measures should

be promoted in closer correlation with welfare service, employment and education measures.

1. Prevention and early detection of mental and physical disorders

In order to prevent mental and physical disorders, the actual state and causes of disorders should be identified. Based on these results, various preventive measures should be taken, including health control measures for pregnant women.

Regarding congenital disorders, early detection and the supply of necessary early medical treatment will reduce handicaps caused by disorders, enhancing social adaptability. To implement these, a system for supplying proper measures at the proper times should be strengthened.

Regarding acquired disorders, there is an increase in the number of such disorders caused by diseases due to the expansion of the aged population in society. To control this growth, health control measures such as preventive measures against adult diseases should be promoted.

To enhance the prevention and early detection of disorders, emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. Prevention and early detection of physical and mental disorders caused by congenital abnormalities

i. To promote health control measures for pregnant women, including health education and health examinations

for pregnant women

ii. To improve the prenatal medical care system

iii. To promote measures for avoiding factors (pharmaceuticals, infectious diseases, alcohol, environmental pollutants, etc.) which may provoke congenital abnormalities

iv. To promote information dissemination and consultation on genetics

v. To study a congenital abnormality monitoring system

vi. To step up mass screenings such as inspections for congenital disorders of metabolism and various health examinations of maternal and child health, including the physical examination of babies and infants

vii. To provide good linkage between early detection, early treatment and early medical care

b. Prevention of acquired disorders and early detection of causal diseases

i. To promote preventive measures against disorders which often afflict the aged, including paralytic disorders caused by cerebrovascular diseases and organic mental disorders such as senile dementia

ii. To promote the prevention of causal diseases of disturbances of emotions and conduct

iii. To promote health control measures including various health examinations for the adult diseases

iv. To promote safety measures in various fields in society, including labor safety measures, traffic safety measures and pollution preventing measures

v. To establish good coordination between the early detection of causal diseases, treatment and rehabilitation

2. Promotion of medical care and research

Efforts should be made to provide medical care for disorders in response to social changes, including the changes in frequencies of various disease and advances in medical science. Also, research and development programs for identifying the causes of disorders and medical treatment should be promoted, and considerations should be given to the health of disabled persons.

For medical treatment and research programme in the future, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To supply the medical institutions sufficiently with rehabilitational functions and to improve the rehabilitational functions in associated medical organizations in consideration of the importance of rehabilitation which plays major role in the medical care of disorders

b. To give careful consideration so that the rehabilitational functions of social welfare facilities can be extensively useful for the disabled persons in community

c. To endeavor to improve the quality of the medical care

and rehabilitation for severely handicapped children and adults and seriously disabled persons with progressive muscular dystrophy, etc.

d. To endeavor to assure the supply of medical services for disabled persons who have difficulties in receiving medical care due to the characteristics of their disorders. Typical medical services would be visiting examinations for homebound seriously disabled persons and dental diagnosis and treatment for seriously disabled persons

e. To improve the system to permit renal transplantation for the patients who suffer from renal failures and who wish to have renal transplant

f. To promote research programmes on prevention, early detection and early medical care of disorders, the research on the neurological and muscular disorders focusing progressive muscular dystrophy, research on developmental disorders, research on mental disorders, and research on the causes and medical treatment for the so-called incurable diseases which may cause sequelae

g. To promote research on the physical training and health promotion of disabled persons

3. Promotion of health and welfare measures for the mentally ill

The human rights of the mentally ill should be protected, and securing proper psychiatric care and social

rehabilitation should be promoted. For this purpose, efforts should be made to quickly establish a proposed amendment to the Mental Health Law which is mainly intended for promoting the social rehabilitation of the mentally ill as well as for the improvement of their human rights.

For future measures to benefit the mentally ill, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To improve mental health consultation, etc. at health centers and mental health centers, thus promoting local mental health measures at community level

b. To review the hospital admission systems, and to improve admission procedures and the provisions for guidance and supervision at psychiatric hospitals, thus securing the human rights of hospitalized patients

c. To reorganize the Medical Examiner of Mental Health system to the Designated Physician for Mental Health system in order to protect the human rights of the mentally ill and to ensure proper medical care and protection for them

d. To promote the social rehabilitation of the mentally ill and their participation in society by improving the facilities for social rehabilitation

e. To promote the mental health measures suited for the life stages of adolescence, senium, etc.

f. To review the qualification restrictions which are given due to mental disorders

4. Retaining and training of health personnel

In order to secure high-quality manpower with high-quality in speciality, measures for training projects should be promoted.

For training of personnel, an emphasis should be placed in the future on the following:

a. To promote training based on the clinical engineering technician law and the artificial limb equipment technician law, and to study the qualification system for specialists such as speech therapists (provisional designation), which has not yet been established

b. To enhance education on rehabilitation in medical education and postgraduate education for physicians

c. To promote training projects for physical therapists and occupational therapists

5. Promotion of R&D for rehabilitation and technical aids

For scientific research in engineering and medicine, the exchange of information and communication between researchers in Japan and abroad should be enhanced. Also, active research and development programmes should be continued in order to improve the organizational system for supplying rehabilitation and technical aids to meet diversified needs of disabled persons.

For research and development programmes in the future of the rehabilitation and technical aids, an emphasis should

be placed on the following:

a. To improve the research and development system for rehabilitation and technical aids

b. To study standardization, requirements, testing and evaluation of rehabilitation and technical aids

c. To endeavor identifying the concept of rehabilitation aids

d. To promote a network system for information on rehabilitation aids, including a data bank

C. Education and Upbringing

1. Improvement of educational measures for mentally and physically disabled children

The basic purpose of education for mentally and physically disabled children is to enable them to have education appropriate to the type and degree of their disabilities without isolating themselves from their families or community so that they can achieve their fullest potential and social independence as far as possible.

Also, in order to promote accurate understanding and recognition of mentally and physically disabled children and persons by general persons in society, the efforts for enhancing the understanding and recognition of mentally and physically disabled children from childhood should be continued.

For the future education of mentally and physically

disabled children, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. For special schools and classes, the contents of education and methods of instruction should be improved and enhanced by improving the curriculum standard in order to ensure effective education according to the particular condition of disabilities of children

b. To enhance the training, including the in-service training, of the educational staff in charge of special education. Also, efforts should be made to promote the current plan for improving class organization and the staffing of special schools and classes.

c. To improve the facilities and equipment required for providing proper education according to the type and degree of mental and physical disabilities and to give consideration to the facilities of elementary and lower schools for children with light disabilities. Also, efforts should be continued to improve the subsidies for encouragement of school attendance for special education cost support.

d. To improve and enhance the National Institute of Special Education and special education centers. This is in response to the fact that there is increasing necessity for research on special education with the recent trend toward more disabilities becoming severe and multiple.

e. To improve vocational education, which has been carried out mainly at the upper secondary departments of special schools, and to improve the career guidance for students with enhancing the close relationship with the associated organizations such as public employment security offices and vocational centers for mentally and physically disabled.

f. To strengthen cooperation among relevant organizations such as medical care, welfare and education in promoting early education for mentally and physically disabled children

g. Efforts should be continued to improve proper school attendance guidance by improving the function of the school attendance guidance committee and by carrying out school entrance consultation, trial entrance into a school, etc.

h. To strive to actively provide opportunities for exchange between the children at special schools and the children at ordinary elementary and lower secondary schools as well as the people in the communities. Also, efforts should be made to enhance measures for providing elementary school children and lower secondary school students with proper understanding and recognition of mentally and physically disabled children by designating schools for promoting the understanding of mentally and physically disabled children or by preparing and distributing materials

for that purpose.

i. With regard to admission of disabled persons to a college or university, consideration should be given to the method for carrying out entrance examinations and to the improvement of facilities so that disabled persons can use them without difficulties. Also, a national junior college for persons suffering from visual impairment or hearing impairment should be founded.

j. For social education, further consideration should be given to the use by disabled persons of facilities, equipment and social education service.

2. Improvement of measures for the upbringing of mentally and physically disabled children

The major purpose of the upbringing of mentally and physically disabled children is to promote better development of mind and body by giving proper treatment, guidance and training as early treatment and nurturing after early detection of disorders. Further efforts should be given to the domiciliary measures for mentally and physically disabled children, which have steadily been improved. The institutional and domiciliary measures should be interactively coordinated in the measures system as well as in the communities where such measures are carried out, thus making the upbringing measures a part of general local welfare measures.

For the future upbringing measures for mentally and physically disabled children, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To promote research on the treatment and nurturing of mentally and physically disabled children, including the development of early medical care for mentally and physically disabled children

b. To improve the welfare service system in a community by properly locating the facilities for mentally and physically disabled children living in that community and by coordinating those facilities so that the children in that community can utilize them when they need them. Facilities and service include those for various types of disabled children, day service for mentally and physically disabled children and organizations for counseling. Among them, the improvement of the day service for mentally and physically disabled children in particular should be promoted.

c. To strengthen and improve the function of facilities by spreading and establishing the treatment and nurturing methods so that proper care can be carried out at the facilities

d. Consideration should be given so that the functions of the facilities for mentally and physically disabled children can be extensively utilized by the children in a community. Improving the short stay system for mentally and

physically disabled children is an example of such considerations.

e. To improve the training of the personnel engaged in the facilities

f. To improve the organizations which give advice and guidance in response to the requests for consultation from mentally and physically disabled children and their parents

g. To further promote coordination and close relationship between the medical care at facilities and school education

D. Employment

The employment of disabled persons has been improving year by year with the increase of the nation's concern following the International Year of Disabled Persons. For the future basic policy, with the greatest emphasis placed on seriously disabled persons, efforts will be made to assure them of general working places as much as possible. According to the basic policy, detailed measures for disabled persons with particular disorders will be considered.

For the future improvement, based on the Law for the Employment Promotion, etc. of Disabled Persons, which was improved over the Physically Disabled Person's Employment Promotion Law, the general employment measures for all kinds of disabled persons should be promoted at the same time as

the vocational rehabilitation service which properly responds to the increasing seriousness of disorders is also promoted.

For disabled persons who have difficulties finding general employment, the relationship and coordination between the labor and welfare administration should become closer to improve the welfare measures, which include the measures for various facilities for giving employment, in addition to the improvement of employment measures.

Also, efforts should be continued to further improve the support measures for the persons engaged in independent enterprises.

1. Measures adopted for the specific disability

a. Promotion of measures for the physically disabled

For employment measures for physically disabled persons such as those who have disabilities on both arms, persons suffering from visual disability or cerebral palsy, the technical support and public information provided to enterprisers have been promoted, and various other measures have been taken. They include the survey and research of suitable occupations and the development of ME equipment for enlarging the range of their occupations. For those disabled persons mentioned above, based on the results obtained so far, positive efforts should be continued to enhance employment promotion and stabilization. For that

purpose, various measures for expanding the range of their occupations, effective vocational training for developing occupational ability and subsidy supplied according to the type of disability should be further promoted.

Future measures for disabled persons should place an emphasis on the following:

i. To further promote survey and research on the development of ME equipment to expand the range of their occupations

ii. To promote public information activities for expanding the range of their occupations based on the research results obtained so far

iii. To utilize the subsidies supplied according to the type of disability

iv. To improve the measures for assuring persons, who have become disabled while they were working at their companies, stable employment

v. To enhance the technical support for enterprisers with their employment management

vi. To promote the development of training techniques for effective occupational ability development

b. Promotion of measures for mentally retarded persons

Regarding mentally retarded persons, mentally retarded employees are counted when the actual employment rate is computed based on the employment quota system according to

the revised Physically Disabled Persons' Employment Promotion Law. It has been decided that they will receive adjustment subsidy and awards based on the levy and grant system. For the future employment promotion and stabilization for mentally retarded persons, enterprisers will be furnished with complete information on the contents of the revision.

The conditions for promoting the employment of mentally retarded persons have been improved by various measures, including those for vocational training at public vocational training facilities and the upbringing projects at mentally retarded person's ability development centers where the third sector method invested both by private sector and by public sector is used. In the future, in addition to further promotion of those measures, efforts should be made to perform the vocational preparatory training for mentally retarded persons at vocational centers for mentally and physically disabled persons in order to provide them with practice in basic labor skills.

For the future measures for mentally retarded persons, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

i. To promote and stabilize the employment for mentally retarded persons mainly by furnishing enterprisers with complete details of the revisions on the employment quota system and levy and grant system

ii. To utilize subsidies according to the characteristics of each mentally retarded person

iii. To improve and enhance the vocational training for mentally retarded persons at public vocational training facilities

iv. To promote the project on the mentally retarded persons' ability development centers based on the third sector method

v. To carry out vocational preparatory training for mentally retarded persons at mentally and physically handicapped persons' vocational centers

c. Promotion of measures for the mentally ill

For the mentally ill, the employment measures have been improving. For instance, it was decided in 1986 that the vocational rehabilitation system will cover persons suffering from schizophrenia, etc. In the future, the vocational rehabilitation based on the revised Laws for Promoting the Disabled Persons' Employment should be promoted, and at the same time, the survey and research on the vocational requirements should be made. Also, efforts should be made to develop rehabilitation measures including those for improving the rehabilitation facilities based on the draft of a proposed law for revising a part of the Mental Health Law and other associated laws. Thus, the promotion of the measures for promoting employment and

stabilizing vocations for the mentally ill will be achieved.

For future measures for the mentally ill, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

i. To promote survey and research on the vocational requirements of the mentally ill

ii. To promote public information activities for promoting the employment of the mentally ill

iii. To promote the employment of the mentally ill by utilizing the vocational rehabilitation system, etc.

iv. To promote improvement of rehabilitation facilities such as the sheltered workshops for the mentally ill

2. Measures for disabled persons for whom it is difficult to find immediate employment

For disabled persons for whom it is difficult to find employment immediately, the following measures have been taken in the labor administration: development of companies for hiring seriously disabled persons, using the third sector method; and the special ability development training projects for seriously disabled persons through cooperation between companies and the sheltered workshops. The welfare administration has taken measures to assure the foundation of welfare factories for mentally retarded persons, expansion of support facilities and business expense support, and improvement of day service system. These measures have been carried out through close cooperation

between the labor and welfare administrations. Because the number of seriously disabled persons for whom it is difficult to find employment immediately is increasing, it is becoming still more important to improve the general measures for welfare work and other specific measures for promoting general employment of the seriously disabled persons. In the future, efforts should be continued to further promote the measures under close cooperation between the labor and welfare administrations.

In future measures for disabled persons for whom it is difficult to find employment immediately, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To further promote the expansion of vocational range and the development of suitable jobs for seriously disabled persons

b. To further promote the development of companies hiring seriously disabled persons, using the third sector method

c. To improve the sheltered workshops according to plans

d. To promote employment and improve the training at the sheltered workshops

e. To promote the measures for ensuring stable management of sheltered workshops, welfare factories, etc.

f. To improve the subsidy for small workshops

3. Promotion of vocational rehabilitation

The measures for vocational rehabilitation have been considerably improved by the enhanced projects at various facilities such as the vocational training schools for physically disabled persons and the vocational centers for mentally and physically disabled persons, and the founding of Kibi-kogen General Rehabilitation Center. However, efforts should be continued to supply vocational rehabilitation service which properly responds to the needs of disabled persons, considering the fact that the seriousness of disorders is increasing.

In particular, the revision of the Physically Disabled Persons' Employment Promotion Law has integrated the vocational rehabilitation implementation system, including vocational evaluation and guidance, into the Japanese Disabled Persons' Employment Promotion Association in order to improve the vocational rehabilitation implementation system. Efforts should be made to enable the vocational rehabilitation facilities to integrally and effectively supply the vocational rehabilitation service under close cooperation with the associated organizations such as public employment security offices.

Because intensive service has been required with the increasing seriousness of disabilities, a system for performing research on vocational rehabilitation and its

widespread implementation is to be established, and also, the system for implementing vocational rehabilitation is to be improved.

For future vocational rehabilitation, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To enhance the vocational centers for mentally and physically disabled persons

b. To promote the project of the Institute of Vocational Training for Disabled Persons, and to establish a vocational rehabilitation network with the center as its core

c. To promote the survey and research on vocational rehabilitation

d. To promote integral and effective vocational rehabilitation at National Vocational Rehabilitation Centers and Kibi-kogen General Rehabilitation Center

e. To promote effective vocational training as part of the vocational rehabilitation

4. Training of specialists

The training, knowledge and skill of the personnel engaged in vocational rehabilitation have been improved by the establishment of the welfare engineering dept. at vocational training schools, the study and training at the National Vocational Rehabilitation Centers and other activities. In the future, in addition to promoting those

conventional measures, efforts should be continued to improve the study and training system for the professional social welfare personnel of vocational rehabilitation so that the training can be carried out integrally and systematically. An example of such implementation is the promotion of the project on the Institute of Vocational Training for Disabled Persons.

For the training of professional social welfare personnel, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To improve the study and training system for professional social welfare personnel by establishing the Institute of Vocational Training for Disabled Persons

b. To improve the study and training of the vocational training instructors for disabled persons at the vocational training schools

c. To introduce the qualification system for the professional personnel of vocational rehabilitation

E. Income Security and Welfare Service

1. Promotion of measures for stable living

To assure disabled persons a secure life, the annuity system for disabled persons has been greatly improved by the establishment of the basic disability benefit scheme available to all residents of the nation. This is part of the plan to establish the income security system designed to

secure a foundation for independent life of a disabled person. Further, in order to improve the allowances and the like, which are supplied in consideration of the specific needs inherent to disabilities, the welfare allowance system has been reorganized to establish a disabled persons' special allowance system designed for homebound disabled persons of 20 years or more with unusually serious disabilities to help reduce the special burdens imposed by the disabilities. Thus, considerable improvement for assuring disabled persons stable incomes has been promoted.

Regarding the future measures for ensuring a secure life, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To review and revise the amount of benefit for disabled persons as with the amounts of other benefits in response to changes in the nation's living standard, etc.

b. To improve various allowances such as the special allowance for the severely disabled and the disabled children's welfare allowance

c. To continue to give proper tax consideration to disabled persons

2. Improvement of welfare service

The welfare service for disabled persons is to be supplied to any disabled person, who is a citizen, according to his or her specific needs arising from the disability. For the future welfare service measures, both the quantity

and the quality of the domiciliary service available to seriously disabled persons to enable them to lead an independent life should be improved. At the same time, efforts should be made to accomplish the enhancement of the special functions of various facilities, the coordination between the associated measures and the promotion of general welfare service.

For the future welfare service, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. Domiciliary service

i. Common matters

(1) To promote the whole range of regional projects such as the project to build "accessible towns for the disabled," and to enhance the cooperation between the associated organizations to attain general promotion of the domiciliary service-related projects

(2) To promote the supply of houses together with special care such as welfare homes

(3) To improve the care, home visit service and moving service for homebound seriously disabled persons

(4) To enhance the sheltered workshops, day service, etc. for actively encouraging disabled persons to join society

(5) To improve the service for homebound disabled persons, which provides facilities services, such as a short stay service

(6) To enhance the research & development and supply system of welfare technical aids, etc., and to promote the spread of such technical aids

(7) To enhance the study and training for the professional personnel engaged in domiciliary service, including home helpers

(8) To promote the training of social case workers and other special care workers according to the laws associated to them

ii. Matters relating to specific types of disability

(1) To study establishment of a qualification system of the associated occupations such as sign language interpretation

(2) To continue to promote the rehabilitation of the mentally retarded. This includes promotion of research on the desirable treatments and the determination method for mental deficiency.

(3) To improve the environment so that the mentally retarded or ill can easily get jobs and to enhance the support system for the mentally retarded and ill who lead independent lives in their communities

(4) To improve the home services for the mentally ill, including the home visit guidance by mental health consultants, etc.

b. Institutional welfare service

i. Common matters

(1) To improve the facilities in a large area to implement a general rehabilitation system which integrates all services from medical care to vocation, and to promote the improvement of local facilities such as visiting facilities and living facilities

(2) To integrally improve a variety of facilities to establish a facilities system which responds to disabled persons' needs, and to make local facilities more open to community

(3) To enhance the facilities use service network so that each facility can function interactively and efficiently according to the actual state of each community, responding to aging and the increasing seriousness of disabilities, and to further enhance the training of professional personnel

(4) To review how the users of facilities and their supporters should bear the expenses

ii. Matters relating to specific disabilities

(1) To promote the improvement of the comprehensive day care centers to enhance the prevention, early detection and early treatment of mental and physical disorders

(2) To promote the improvement of public psychiatric hospitals, mental health centers and the rehabilitation facilities for the mentally ill

F. Living Environment

1. Developing and improving houses and buildings

With the increase in promotion of measures based on the idea of normalization, the desire of disabled persons for house living is getting stronger. Thus the development and improvement of houses for disabled persons are becoming still more important.

As consideration is given to public housing and apartment houses for disabled persons, and they are built by the Japan Housing Corporation, special considerations are given to the structure and equipment. Some existing houses are also being improved for disabled persons. In addition, there are various favorable treatments, including one which permits a disabled person to live by himself in public housing. In addition, for the public housing loan, extra loans are given to the families who live with mentally and physically disabled persons. When selecting sites for public housing and apartment houses built by the Japan Housing Corporation for disabled persons, consideration is given to convenience in their daily lives and their fusion with communities. In the future, efforts should be continued to promote those measures.

Public buildings should be further improved to assure disabled persons easier use.

For the future development and improvement of housing

and buildings, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To promote the improvement of public housing for disabled persons

b. To promote disabled persons living in public housing, and an increase in consideration to the public housing loan for disabled persons

c. To promote the improvement of the houses for disabled persons, designed for fusion with communities

d. To promote the installation of equipment in houses for disabled persons

e. To further promote the improvement of public buildings with careful consideration given to the use by disabled persons

f. For private structures with a high degree of public function, to promote the spread of architectural designs which give consideration to use by physically disabled persons, and to promote, through assistance measures, the improvement of architectural designs with special consideration given to use by physically disabled persons

2. Promotion of moving and transportation measures

With the increasing opportunities to disabled persons for participation in society and their expanding scope of activity, it has become an increasingly important subject to reduce the handicap of disabled persons in their movement.

It is necessary to further improve the moving and transportation measures in the future.

Improvements have been made in securing mobility for disabled persons. Some examples are the improvements of the terminal facilities of public transportation means and vehicles, traffic safety facilities such as traffic signals and pedestrian crossings, road structures and parking rules with consideration given to the convenience of disabled persons. In addition, the provision of buses with lifts, subsidies for revamped vehicles and dispatch of guide helpers have been implemented. Efforts should be continued to enhance the traffic means service and the improvement of traffic environments in order to assure disabled persons safe and comfortable movement.

For the future promotion of moving and transportation measures, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. For attaining improved vehicles and terminal facilities of public transportation, to give consideration to the use by disabled persons, to furnish disabled persons with proper information and improved aid system

b. To improve pedestrian walkways and the like by properly reducing the steps and laying the guiding blocks for visually disabled persons, thus ensuring safe and comfortable walking spaces for disabled persons

c. To promote the improvement of traffic safety

equipment such as traffic signals, road signs and indicators, with consideration given to the convenience of disabled persons, and to provide disabled persons with favorable measures regarding parking rules by issuing marks which show that their cars are excepted from the no-parking rules

d. To increase the convenience for disabled persons to acquire driver's license and to enhance the consultation for determining the adaptability of disabled persons for driving

e. To enhance moving and transportation service through the provision of buses with lifts, the subsidy for revamped vehicles, the dispatch of guide helpers, etc.

f. To endeavor to reduce the expenses of moving and transportation, giving consideration to the balance with general users of such transportation means

3. Supply of information for disabled persons

It is an undoubted right for a disabled person as a citizen to receive equal information to that available to general citizens. This enables disabled persons to share the same basis of understanding and social consciousness as that of general citizens, and to expand their opportunities of communication with the sense of solidarity as members of society, thus enabling them to join various social activities.

To attain the objective outlined above, efforts should

be made to furnish disabled persons with sufficient information, utilizing the resources of information transmission which have been rapidly proliferating.

To promote the measures for furnishing disabled persons with information in the future, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To enhance the information service for visually disabled persons by providing braille instructions, recorded tapes, etc.

b. To improve the information means for aurally disabled persons by spreading sign language and videos with superimposed dialogues, and increasing TV programs with superimposed dialogues, and also to expand the dispatch of sign language helpers

c. To promote the spread and development of equipment for promoting communication with disabled persons, and to improve the information service network required to utilize such equipment .

d. To give consideration to guidance, notice, etc. at public facilities

e. To give consideration to information about goods for disabled persons

f. To increase the information on the laws for disabled persons, which is supplied to disabled persons and their families

g. To reduce the expenses required for supplying information for disabled persons, giving consideration to the balance with general users

4. Promotion of prevention of and protection from disasters and crimes

In order to assure disabled persons safe home and social lives, a system for permitting quick, proper collection and transmission of information and quick, proper guidance for refuge in case of disasters such as earthquakes and fires should be promoted. Also, extra effort should be given to improve the system for protecting disabled persons from such disasters, crimes and accidents.

If a disaster or crime takes place at facilities for disabled persons, it may cause serious damage. For this reason, special consideration should be given to the structure and equipment at those facilities, and also the measures for preventing disasters and crimes should be further enhanced by strengthening the refuge and guidance system.

For the future measures for preventing disasters and crimes, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

a. To improve the system for collecting and transmitting information on disasters for disabled persons at homes or public places, and the system for refuge and guidance

b. To assure disabled persons the means of emergency contact with fire stations, polices, etc.

c. To spread knowledge about the prevention of disasters and crimes for disabled persons and knowledge about aid to disabled persons in case of disasters or accidents

d. To further strengthen the disaster and crime prevention system in a region by improving the independent disaster and crime prevention organizations, as well as the disaster and crime prevention systems at facilities

e. To spread private crime prevention systems for preventing crimes and accidents

G. Promotion of Sports, Recreation and Cultural Measures

The sports, recreation and other activities in various cultural fields are growing, and the public activities for supporting such activities are becoming increasingly important. It is necessary to assure disabled persons opportunities to participate in those activities equivalent with those of other citizens.

To promote the sports, recreation and cultural measures, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

1. To encourage disabled persons to participate in sports meetings, recreation, and cultural activities by supporting such activities

2. To give maximum consideration to the accessibility

by disabled persons in the improvement of sports, recreation and cultural facilities

3. To promote public information activities for disabled persons. Such information includes the holding of sports meetings, recreational and cultural events and how to participate in them

4. To promote the research and development of sports programs suited for disabled persons

5. To reduce the expenses to be borne by disabled persons for participating in sports, recreation and cultural activities, giving consideration to the balance with general users

H. Promotion of International Cooperation

As a member of the international society, it is the responsibility of Japan to play an important role in the international society in the fields related to disabled persons and to positively and energetically help implement the full participation and equality of disabled persons in every country in the world. We should further promote international cooperation with an emphasis placed on the projects under the "The United Nations Decade of the Disabled Persons".

For promoting future international cooperation, an emphasis should be placed on the following:

1. To actively cooperate with the activities of the

United Nations and its Specialized Agencies

2. To promote technical cooperation such as project-type technical cooperation and receiving trainees through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and JICWELS (Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services)

3. To make efforts to participate in the determination of international policies by participating in international conferences and holding international conferences in Japan

4. To promote international exchange by increasing the opportunities for disabled persons in every country to have communication through sports, international conferences and other activities

5. To actively promote public information activities toward foreign countries in order to enhance the understanding in foreign countries about the actual states of the measures for disabled person taken by the national and local public entities in Japan, the activities of the communities and private groups associated with disabled persons, and the achievements of the research on rehabilitation, and to collect information on disabled persons in foreign countries and international organizations

III. PROMOTION SYSTEM

The measures for disabled persons involve a wide range of fields, including medical care, education, employment and welfare service. Therefore, in order to promote the

priority measures during the second-half of the decade of the "Long-Term Plan for Government Measures for Disabled Persons", close cooperation should be encouraged between the associated governmental organizations, centering around the Headquarters for Promoting the Welfare of Disabled Persons, thus making efforts to attain integral, effective implementation of the measures.

To promote and make plans for disabled persons, consideration should be given so that the opinions of disabled persons themselves are reflected in meeting their needs. Also, the cooperation between local public entities and private organizations associated with disabled persons should be enhanced.

We expect that all the members making up society, including the local public entities, private organizations associated with disabled persons, companies, mass media, and all individuals which include disabled persons will cooperate in their fields by fulfilling their particular social obligations for improving the welfare of disabled persons.

The Headquarters for Promoting the Welfare of Disabled Persons was esta blished, on April 1, 1982, by a Cabinet Decision to ensure close coordinatio n of activities of the relevant administrative organs and to carry out compr ehensive and effective promotion in regard to the policies and measures rela ted to disabled persons. The President of the Headquaters is the Prime Mini ster.

Secretariat matters relating the Headquarters are to be dealt with the Prime Minister's Office.